A comprehensive state solid waste program should include the following:

- A regulatory, surveillance, and enforcement program to control the transfer, treatment, and disposal of solid waste including resource recovery facility ash. Such a program should include approval of plans, specification and issuance of permits, leachate and ground water monitoring, and financial responsibility of facility owners for proper waste management;
- Requirement for and assistance to counties or municipalities on short- and long-term solid waste management plans and their implementation;
- Training for generators and disposers, including the public, on recycling, managing, and disposing of solid waste;
- Programs to encourage recycling, resource recovery, and industrial processing that minimize solid waste production;
- A process to control and restrict the location of solid waste disposal facilities to protect significant sources of ground water;
- The ability to monitor compliance and take enforcement actions where necessary.

Solid waste landfills are a major source of ground water contamination. State and local governments are also finding that the capacity of existing municipal landfills is very limited, and they are searching for alternative ways of managing solid waste. New Jersey, New York, and Kansas provide examples of states that are promoting planning for solid waste handling and disposal on a county basis.

In general, these states are encouraging construction of incineration/resource recovery plants. However, state emission and ash disposal standards and monitoring requirements for solid waste resource recovery plants are limited. In addition, few of the state and local governments have assessed and implemented aggressive solid waste recycling programs.

New Jersey

Most New Jersey communities are running out of municipal solid waste landfill capacity. Siting of new landfills is a problem because of their potential to pollute ground water.

The New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1, requires each county to develop its own solid waste management program by itself or in conjunction with one or more other counties. Another state law establishes a minimum recycling goal for each county of 25 percent with some state tax incentives to promote this goal.

Because of the sensitivity of the one-million-acre Pine Barrens to ground water contamination and ecological disruption, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission in its Comprehensive Management Plan has prescribed strin-